

# THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

## COTTON IN JAMES CITY. The Crop May be Grown Here.

It is barely possible that ere many years, the Virginia Peninsula will be growing cotton as one of her staple crops. Judging from the success several James City farmers have had with the plant this year, it is not at all improbable it will soon be cultivated extensively in this section and that it will form one of the principle money crops of the farmers. That it will grow to perfection here, that it will mature rapidly and that it will cost less to grow it here than farther south, has been absolutely proven by a James City farmer.

Mr. H. G. Wilson for years grew cotton extensively and successfully in North Carolina. He decided to change to farther north on account of his health and came to James City, locating not far from Lightfoot, on "War Hill" farm. Having long been engaged in cotton growing, he naturally had cotton on the brain—cottonitis, it might be called. He thought he would try it here, as the soil looked good to him for that crop. He planted two acres, or rather being still sick, some men on the place planted the two acres for him. They never planted or cultivated cotton before, but Mr. Wilson sat in his buggy and showed them as best he could. It was very late when the cotton was put in, but it grew and matured and is now as promising a crop as he ever saw in the palmist field of the old North State. He says it is a fine crop and he declares that the staple can be produced here with great profit.

He induced Mr. L. T. Hankins, one of James City's most prominent men, to plant three acres. Mr. Hankins sent a post card picture of the field to The Gazette. We had hoped to make a cut for the paper from it for our readers, but it is too light to permit a cut to be made. We append Mr. Hankins' letter that accompanied the picture, for which we thank him:

"In compliance with my promise to you a short while ago, I am sending you herewith, a photograph of my little cotton field, with one of my sisters, my niece and myself standing in it. The picture was taken on the 18th ultimo, just three months from planting. Last Friday, September 1, the first open bolls appeared. Of course it is too early now to determine whether or not the crop in this section will pay, but I have strong hopes that in the near future there will be lots of the staple raised in old James City county and a number of cotton gins will be found doing a profitable business as well as the farmers.

"It is very gratifying to note that the knitting mill will soon be in operation in Williamsburg again. Maybe, and who knows but we in a short while will be raising plenty of cotton and manufacturing the whole product right here in the county? Anyway, let us live with a hope. All the people who come among us say we have exceptionally fine soil, only it is poor, but all agree it is very susceptible of improvement. Mr. Wilson tells me that he is looking for the government to send a cotton expert here some time this week to look over the situation. I may have something more to say about the cotton business before long."

Mr. Wilson also induced an old colored farmer to plant an acre of

cotton and his results are said to be as satisfactory as the others. Mr. Hankins says he will install and operate a gin for the convenience of the growers if they will plant cotton next season. Mr. Wilson promises to do all he can to assist those who want to try the experiment next season and those interested should have a talk with him. It may result in great good to the farmers as well as to this section of the state, and is certainly worth considering.

### Thinks Virginia Allright.

Warsaw, Ind., August 15, 1911.  
Editor The Gazette:

Arrived here at 5:30 a. m. Saturday. My trip here was a pleasant one and is my first in 16 years.

There have been many changes here in the last sixteen years that are a credit to the city of Warsaw and the surrounding country and makes me feel that sixteen years is a much longer time than one would think. The people have also changed. Many have died and others have changed and some names are very strange to me. Many of their faces look familiar but many of their names have slipped my memory. My brother and nephew met me here and brought me out home.

I found my mother and sister and brother's family all well. The old home looked so strange to me that I will once more say that sixteen years is a long time. It did not seem so long to me while in Virginia so my stay there must have been a pleasant one.

I will say right here that the people of Virginia are lots better off than they think they are and should be the happiest on earth. There are drawbacks in all countries. Virginia has her share of them but many of them are no comparison with other parts of the country. Many of the people that come to Virginia are like a little boy in a toy shop—he wants all and at once. Now we must have patience with Old Virginia and be more liberal in our wants and give Old Virginia a fair show and she will do the rest. Her future looks good to me and I do hope that I have a few followers with the same opinion.

It is very dry here and has been for some time. The corn crop looks very good. There would have been a big crop but for the drouth. The fall plowing is a hard proposition, but some are still trying to plow. If the frost does not hurt the corn they will have a good crop. Right cool nights here for me but the people think it warm. I had to put on heavier clothing to keep warm and wore a coat and vest.

Very respectfully yours,

Geo. B. Yeakel.

[Since the above was written, Mr. Yeakel has returned home. He enjoyed his stay, but is glad to be home. He still says Virginia is all right.—Ed.]

### Labor Day in Williamsburg.

Labor Day in Williamsburg was observed generally by the people. The banks were closed and the post-office and hospital observed Sunday rules. The day was beautiful and many people took advantage of low excursion rates to visit Richmond, or nearby seaside resorts. The town looked deserted and business was at a stand still.

Headed by Mr. C. J. Person, five automobiles formed a party to Richmond over the Peninsula sand-clay road. From this section went the Misses Daley and Mr. F. H. Ball, and from Newport News, Dr. Creasy and Mr. T. J. Duncan. Excepting one, the machines were Fords and they made the run to Richmond and back without mishap of any kind, all returning here about 8 o'clock.

### Protest Against "Yellow Journalism."

Mr. Editor:

I would enter a protest against the vulgar type of "Yellow Journalism" with which the leading newspapers of our fair state have, of late, pandered to a diseased public sentiment. In connection with the Beattie murder case in the vicinity of Richmond, the most nauseating details have been made leading features of the newspaper accounts, and in language suggestive as any used in the Decameron Pictures of a woman of the "under-world" have frequently decorated the front pages of these newspapers; unclean episodes in her career—even her most glaring offenses against the moral decalogue—have been made to appear almost as virtues.

All this vile stuff is daily placed in the hands of innocent young girls, to be read and discussed by them with as much familiarity as among men.

Can you say that such influences, which are apparently sustained by their fathers and mothers, do not tarnish the young minds, and rob them of the innate purity which, we as men, are pleased to regard as the highest and most precious attribute of womanly character—the one thing that makes woman desirable?

Men of Virginia pride themselves upon their chivalry toward women. They stand ready and willing at all times to protect female virtue, and yet, to their everlasting discredit, they allow so-called "family newspapers" to enter their homes to defile the pure minds of their children—without protest. The reading of evil literature—if it may be termed—is conducive to evil thinking, and the Good Book proclaims: "As a man thinketh; so is he."

It has been a source of considerable surprise to me, that ministers of the Gospel have made no public protest against this growing iniquity. For what reason do they keep silent?

As a former newspaper man, and knowing, as I do, the ins and outs of that profession, I unhesitatingly make the assertion, on the one hand, that modern journalism is doing more to corrupt the morals of our young people than any other agency, except, perhaps, the moving-picture shows; and, on the other hand, a vicious public sentiment demands of the newspapers a compliance with its desire for unclean and sensational reading, as the price of their material success. This is true and it is a disgrace upon our much boasted civilization. Let us wipe out the "damned spot"

F. H. B.

### Making Fine Drain Tile.

Mrs. L. L. Walls, the new owner of the Delks Brickyard, is making a fine drain tile, having burned his first test kiln of 4,000 last week. While the writer is not an expert on drain tile, a sample left at this office "looks good" to us. The sample is a beautiful 4-inch tile, hard and clean, having the appearance of the real goods.

Mr. Walls, who is from Illinois, has worked patiently and long in the production of this first sample batch. He got possession of the plant which he found necessary to improve and remodel from a brick plant. It all took time and money. He now feels assured that there is something in the proposition and that the plant will prove a great industry here. He has sold all his output to farmers in the vicinity of Norfolk, so we learn. He can undersell the imported goods, and found no trouble in placing his orders direct with the farmers.

Bargain windows at Randolph's this week.

### Will Be Asked for Prizes.

All over the state local merchants are assisting the movement for better crops by contributing prizes to winners in the Boys' Corn Clubs. The merchants usually are very liberal in their prizes, knowing that the cause is a meritorious one. It is probable that the Williamsburg merchants will be called upon to give several small prizes, none of them exceeding \$5 in value, something out of their stock.

Prizes will be given as follows: First prize for the best ten ears. Second prize for the best six stalks with corn on stalk. Third, for best yield per acre. Owing to the bad season, and the lateness of starting on the crop, Demonstrator Slauson does not anticipate any broken records by the York-James City club. But the boys have done really fine work under the circumstances, and great results are expected from the experiment.

The alfalfa club is doing well with thirty members, all of whom have entered enthusiastically into the experiment. Mr. Slauson has great hopes for this club and thinks it will demonstrate that the grass will do well here and be made one of the permanent crops. Some who have tried to grow alfalfa here say it does well, although others have not been so successful. It may have been the fault of preparation or seed with those who failed.

### New Ice Plant for Williamsburg.

(Contributed)

It is reported that there is a movement on foot among some of the stockholders of the Williamsburg Creamery to install an ice plant in conjunction with the creamery, before another season rolls around, with a daily capacity of about 4 tons. This plant would be run on a cooperative basis and ice to the stockholder would be reduced to almost actual cost.

A number of the business men have already expressed a willingness to aid in such an enterprise and it is believed that there will be no trouble in promoting the scheme. It is figured that this enterprise run in connection with the creamery will aid materially in reducing the running expenses of the same which at present is quite heavy on account of the limited number of cows. This would mean cheaper ice for Williamsburg and cheaper ice would mean greater consumption.

This does not necessarily mean that the present ice plant will be forced out of business. With ice sold at a lower price undoubtedly both plants could be run at nearly their full capacity as the public would use it more liberally. At any rate it would revolutionize the dairy industry here, for with good refrigeration connected with the creamery, the farmers would be able to put butter or cream on the market second to none.

### Minor--Jones.

Two young people of James City surprised their friends last Friday by going to Washington where they were quietly married. They were Miss Ellen Jones and Mr. G. W. Minor.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. Gus Jones and for some time has resided here where she held a position in the hospital. The bridegroom is a son of Capt. W. Minor. The young people have many friends here and in the county who wish them a long and pleasant matrimonial voyage. They will reside in James City.

Buy the Dinky-Dinky Hat at Randolph's.

### Our New Five Forks School.

Editor The Gazette:

The parents residing in the Jamestown district are feeling good over the school outlook for their children.

In having secured Mr. F. H. Baldwin as principal of the new centrally located school at Five Forks, the people are to be congratulated. Mr. Baldwin is a man of good, sterling quality, broad-minded, with no narrow prejudices about him to limit his good influences over all the children, no matter from what section of this great country of ours they come.

Mr. Baldwin is an exceedingly modest man, and it is with genuine pleasure that the writer, learning somewhat of Mr. Baldwin's experience as a teacher from others, is able to say this little of his past record. Graduating from Olivette College, Michigan, Mr. Baldwin held a professorship in mathematics and latin in the Shenandoah College, Iowa; principal of Lenox College for four years, establishing a normal school there; superintendent and principal in the public schools, and on one occasion resigning from the public school at Farragut, Iowa, a petition was received by him signed by every citizen of the place asking him to remain; has the degree of M. A. and a state certificate to teach.

On account of failing health, Mr. Baldwin came to Virginia, and located in the Tidewater section where his health improved so rapidly and satisfactorily that he chose to make his home here. During his stay here, he has won the kindest regard from old settlers as well as newcomers.

So, the people of Jamestown school district are looking forward to a successful school work for the future; what with so able a principal, and the new, neat, modern building of concrete in course of erection, affording ample accommodations, good ventilation, well heated in winter, and pure water, we feel encouraged to look for good returns in the development, mentally and physically of our children.

In the appointment of Miss New and Miss Gilly, as assistants, we believe Professor Baldwin will have able assistance. Both young women having experience in teaching.

We are so pleased with our school outlook, that this is but a slight expression from all, by one

Friend and Neighbor.

### Wants Vacation Extended.

"Married. Wish to stay few days. Wire if not satisfactory." That is the laconic message the wires brought Cashier F. R. Savage from Johnstown, Pa., at an early hour Tuesday morning. It was signed "G. E. Beale, Jr." Young Beale is a clerk in the Bank of Williamsburg and a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Beale. Of course, the name of the bride was not mentioned, but it is universally known that she is Miss Bertha Braithwaite, the pretty daughter of Mrs. W. H. Braithwaite. Miss Braithwaite has been visiting her sister, Mrs. E. C. Long, in Johnstown, all summer. Mr. Beale left here Saturday night for Johnstown and the wedding followed some time between that day and Tuesday.

The parents of the young people were unaware of their intention to marry at this time, and they were naturally as much taken by surprise as outsiders. Anyhow everybody joins in wishing the couple much happiness.

The Gazette has received the following special from Johnstown, Pa.:

Miss Bertha Braithwaite and Mr. Geo. E. Beale, were married at the home of her sister, Mrs. E. C. Long, Johnstown, Penn., Sept. 5th 1911. They are expected home the last of the week.

## WILL HAVE GOOD EFFECT Reopening of Mill Starts Things.

Scarcely had the report gone out that the Williamsburg knitting mill had at last found a purchaser when stories came of improvement in local conditions. It is figured that when the sale is confirmed and it is generally understood the plant will resume operations on a larger scale than ever before known, business will again boom in Williamsburg, and property, which has lost value since the catastrophe a year ago, will go back to normal. Before the plant closed there were some here who derided its importance to the community, but who since its collapse have been the loudest howlers about depreciation of real estate values. Paradoxical as it may seem, these squealers when the pinch came are not found on the subscription list to get the mill on its feet again and restore lost values. Loyal Williamsburgers, however, hastened to subscribe to a fund to help as an inducement for some man to buy the plant and restore it to the profit earning side of the community.

The fund subscribed by local people amounts to \$3,000 in round numbers, and this will be called for in installments as the improvements and enlargements to the plant are made.

The effect of the report of the mill's sale has started anew the demand for real estate. A local agent tells The Gazette that he had negotiated the sale of a building lot in Williamsburg on the strength of the sale, and that he had other deals that he could consummate now that he could not have touched before the announcement of the deal was made. He says he will also be able to close some deals for farm land which have been hanging fire waiting for this announcement. All of which goes to show that some one has been "doing things" for Williamsburg. The merchants, who have had a dull year, have taken new heart and look confidently to the future.

There is nothing new in the situation regarding the sale of the plant. It is now up to Judge Waddill, of the Federal Circuit Court, for confirmation. There is not the slightest doubt but that the sale will be confirmed in due course of time, but there may be a delay if the court decides the plant must be advertised and sold at public auction. Attorneys differ as to the method of closing the deal, some holding that advertising and delay are unnecessary and that its mere confirmation by the court is all that is required.

Many former employees of the mill have indicated their purpose to seek their old positions and are ready when the call comes. A number have moved away, some to other states, but it is reported that in some cases these former employees will come back, having lived here and liked the locality. It is believed that a majority of the old employees will return in a very short time after the resumption of business.

Some idea of the importance to this community of the larger mill, as proposed by Mr. Groat, may be gathered when it is understood the pay-roll will run from \$90,000 to \$100,000 per year. The old plant paid out about \$50,000 per annum at its best. Seven or eight thousand dollars turned loose in Williamsburg each month ought to stimulate business considerably. The reopening of the plant has at least given new heart to the laboring classes, who hail the news with joy.